April 2021

CED Comments, Upcoming Deadlines, and 1 Dad Joke- If you read nothing else, Please read this...

Applying for Farm Storage Facility Loans
Disaster Assistance Available for Livestock Losses
Maintaining Good Credit History

Goshen County FSA Updates

Goshen County Farm Service Agency
1441 East M St., Suite C
Torrington, WY 82240
Phone: 307-532-4880 x2
Fax: 855-415-3443

County Executive Director:
Courtney Yelton

Farm Loan Manager:
Dixie Mount (Platte Co.)

Program Technicians:
Jennifer Baumgartner
Kate Jackson
Brian McKenna
Leisha Orr

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Its a little like a fat man going through a barbed wire fence, you touch on a lot of points, but eventually you'll slide right through. See below:

- The COVID 3 (Top Up Payments) have been issued, totaling over $3.25 million in Goshen county. This requires no additional work or signature on your part, unless you find an error in your 2020 reported acreage. These should be hitting your direct deposit accounts in the next few days. Payment rates are $20 an acre for eligible cropland and additional payments for cattle producers, based on your CFAP 1 numbers. Contact the office with questions.
- The CFAP 2 Sign-Up has been reopened. If you missed out the 1st time please contact us to receive your CFAP 2 payment and the additional CFAP 3 (top-up) payment. The sign-up for CFAP 1 is not going to be reopened.
- If you lost any calves in the blizzard in March, please contact the office ASAP. You have 30 days to file a notice...
Lon Eisenbarth
Dixie Roth
Steve Schmick

Next County Committee Meeting: TBD

- If you have any outstanding items for an LFP application, please get that to us by April 23rd, or we will consider your file closed. If you are missing something, we sent you a letter last week.
- We can still accept late filed ARC/PLC contracts. These must be accompanied by a letter stating why it was late. Contact the office for the contracts.
- The General CRP Sign-Up is still ongoing and a deadline has not yet been announced. The CRP Grasslands Sign-Up will start after the general sign-up has ended.
- NAP Coverage for Millet Hay can still be purchased. The deadline to purchase this coverage is April 30th.
- We can now see producers by appointment. Please call the office for an appointment. Masks are required on Federal property. We look forward to seeing you all in person again.
- Acreage reporting is quickly approaching. If you want or need maps for your acreage reporting please let us know.

Upcoming Deadline/Dates
May 31- Memorial Day- Office Closed
July 15- Spring Planted Crop- Acreage Reporting Deadline

Dad Joke of the Day- Why does Snoop Dogg carry an umbrella?
Fo’ Drizzle.

Applying for Farm Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Service Agency’s (FSA) Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program provides low-interest financing to help you build or upgrade storage facilities and to purchase portable (new or used) structures, equipment and storage and handling trucks.

Eligible commodities include corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain, pulse crops (lentils, chickpeas and dry peas), hay, honey, renewable biomass, fruits, nuts and vegetables for cold storage facilities, floriculture, hops, maple sap, rye, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, meat and poultry (unprocessed), eggs, and aquaculture (excluding systems that maintain live animals through uptake and discharge of water). Qualified facilities include grain bins, hay barns and cold storage facilities for eligible commodities.

Loans up to $50,000 can be secured by a promissory note/security agreement, loans between $50,000 and $100,000 may require additional security, and loans exceeding $100,000 require additional security.

You do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply. The loans are designed to assist a diverse range of farming operations, including small and mid-sized businesses, new farmers, operations supplying local food and farmers markets, non-traditional farm products, and underserved producers.
Disaster Assistance Available for Livestock Losses

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to you for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather, disease and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law.

For disease losses, FSA county committees can accept veterinarian certifications that livestock deaths were directly related to adverse weather and unpreventable through good animal husbandry and management.

For 2021 livestock losses, you must file a notice within 30 calendar days of when the loss is first apparent. You then must provide the following supporting documentation to your local FSA office no later than 60 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the eligible loss condition occurred.

- Proof of death documentation
- Copy of grower’s contracts
- Proof of normal mortality documentation

USDA has established normal mortality rates for each type and weight range of eligible livestock, i.e. Adult Beef Cow = 2% and Non-Adult Beef Cattle (less than 400 pounds) = 4.3%. These established percentages reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under “normal” conditions.

In addition to filing a notice of loss, you must also submit an application for payment by March 1, 2022.

For more information, contact the Goshen County USDA Service Center at 307-532-4880 x2 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

Maintaining Good Credit History

Farm Service Agency (FSA) loans require applicants to have a satisfactory credit history. A credit report is requested for all FSA direct farm loan applicants. These reports are reviewed to verify outstanding debts, see if bills are paid timely and to determine the impact on cash flow.

Information on your credit report is strictly confidential and is used only as an aid in conducting FSA business.

Our farm loan staff will discuss options with you if you have an unfavorable credit report and will provide a copy of your report. If you dispute the accuracy of the information on the credit report, it is up to you to contact the issuing credit report company to resolve any errors or inaccuracies.

There are multiple ways to remedy an unfavorable credit score:

- Make sure to pay bills on time
Setting up automatic payments or automated reminders can be an effective way to remember payment due dates.

- Pay down existing debt
- Keep your credit card balances low
- Avoid suddenly opening or closing existing credit accounts

FSA’s farm loan staff will guide you through the process, which may require you to reapply for a loan after improving or correcting your credit report. For more information on FSA farm loan programs, contact your Platte County USDA Service Center at 307-322-4050 x2 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Courtney Yelton at 307-532-4880 x2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).